

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 1-41 and substitute the following claims:

42. (new): An isolated nucleic acid molecule which comprises a nucleotide sequence that

(a) encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant thereof at least 90% identical thereto, which variant is immunoreactive with at least one antibody that specifically binds the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; or

(b) encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE5 deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207129;

(c) encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE9 deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207084;

(d) comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide residue number 6 through nucleotide residue number 2138 or a full-length variant of said nucleotide sequence from positions 6-2138 that hybridizes to said nucleotide sequence under stringent conditions; or

comprises a nucleotide sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequences designated in paragraphs (a)-(d).

43. (new): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 which comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant thereof at least 90% identical thereto, which variant is immunoreactive with at least one antibody that specifically binds the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or a complement of said nucleotide sequence.

44. (new): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 43 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence.

45. (new): The nucleic acid of claim 42 which comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE5

deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207129 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence.

46. (new): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 which comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE9 deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207084 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence.

47. (new): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 which comprises a nucleotide sequence that comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide residue number 6 through nucleotide residue number 2138 or a full-length variant of said nucleotide sequence from positions 6-2138 that hybridizes to said nucleotide sequence under stringent conditions or a complement of said nucleotide sequence.

48. (new): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 48 which comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide residue number 6 through nucleotide residue number 2138 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence.

49. (new): A recombinant expression system which comprises the nucleotide sequence contained in the nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 operably linked to control sequences for expression.

50. (new): Recombinant host cells comprising the expression system of claim 49.

51. (new): A method to produce a protein having the characteristics of 24P4C12 which method comprises culturing the cells of claim 50 under conditions for expression, and optionally recovering said protein.